

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 04181 01 OF 02 160649Z

13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 NEA-11 /213 W

----- 063855

R 151953Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6907

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 4181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, FR

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF FRENCH OFFICIAL ON WASHINGTON ENERGY
CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA,
HAS GIVEN ECO/COM MIN HIS REACTION TO WASHINGTON
ENERGY CONFERENCE AND HIS VIEWS ON THE COURSE THE GOF
IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW IN THE MONTH AHEAD. BRUNET SAID
GOF SAW CONFERENCE AS PRIMARILY POLITICAL EVENT. THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 04181 01 OF 02 160649Z

GOF HAD NO DISAGREEMENT ON THE CONFERENCE'S ANALYSIS

OF THE CAUSES OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM OR THE ACTION NEEDED TO DEAL WITH THEM, GOF DISAGREEMENT CENTERED ON PROCEDURES, I.E. THE U.S. INSISTENCE ON THE CREATION OF A NEW ORGANIZATION WHICH IT WOULD BE ABLE TO DOMINATE. LOOKING AHEAD, BRUNET SAID CONFERENCE WOULD LEAVE SCARS BUT FELT THAT IN A FEW MONTHS, AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR THAT COORDINATING GROUP COULD NOT ACHIEVE VERY MUCH, THINGS WOULD BEGIN TO SETTLE DOWN AGAIN. HE SAID FRANCE WAS FULLY PREPARED TO COOPERATE ON SUCH ENERGY PROBLEMS AS CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, ETC., "WHEN EVERYBODY FINALLY GOT DOWN TO BRASS TACKS." END SUMMARY.

2. IN ORDER TO GIVE US A PRECISE ACCOUNT OF GOF REACTION TO CONFERENCE, BRUNET READ ECON/COM MIN TEXT OF CIRCULAR GUIDANCE TELEGRAM WHICH FOREIGN OFFICE HAS SENT TO FRENCH POSTS ABROAD. TELEGRAM SAID THAT CONFERENCE WAS MOTIVATED PRIMARILY BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. THERE WAS LITTLE QUESTION OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM BUT, WHEN THE DELEGATES DID TALK ABOUT ENERGY, THEY WERE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT QUITE EASILY ON THE CAUSES OF THE PROBLEM AND THE ACTION NEEDED TO DEAL WITH IT. THUS, THERE WAS UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON THE PARAGRAPHS IN THE COMMUNIQUE COVERING THESE MATTERS. (THE FRENCH RESERVATION ON PARAGRAPH 9 DID NOT REFLECT DISAGREEMENT WITH THE SUBSTANCE BUT ONLY THE FACT THAT IT FAILED TO SPECIFY THE ROLE OF THE OECD IN THE COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PROGRAM, E.G. THE DRAWING UP OF AN ALLOCATION SYSTEM.) THUS, THE TELEGRAM CONTINUED, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON A SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. THE CONFERENCE COULD HAVE AGREED ON ENTRUSTING THIS PROGRAM TO EXISTING INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD HAVE BEEN THE EASIER BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT THE ENERGY PROBLEM WAS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA OF THESE INSTITUTIONS. HOWEVER, THIS SOLUTION WAS REJECTED BY THE UNITED STATES WHICH OBSTINATELY INSISTED ON CREATING A NEW ORGANIZATION WHICH THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE ABLE TO DOMINATE. IT MUST BE ADDED THAT THIS FORMULATION WAS ACCEPTED BY OUR EC PARTNERS. THEY THUS EXCEEDED THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 04181 01 OF 02 160649Z

SECTION OF THE EC MANDATE ON THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF US/EC RELATIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH THE TIMING AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CONFERENCE WERE WRONG, THE TELEGRAM CONTINUED, IT COULD STILL HAVE PLAYED A POSITIVE ROLE IN DEALING WITH THE WORLD ENERGY PROBLEM, IF THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT INSISTED ON SEIZING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE ITS

DOMINANT POSITION OVER EUROPE AND JAPAN BY
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ACTION PROGRAM. FRANCE REFUSED
TO ACCEPT THIS FORMULATION AND WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN
THE COORDINATING GROUP.

4. THE FRENCH DELEGATION WAS ABLE, THE TELEGRAM
CONTINUED, TO OBTAIN ELIMINATION FROM THE COMMUNIQUE
OF A PARAGRAPH PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES WHICH WOULD
HAVE CONDEMNED IN BRUTAL TERMS BILATERAL ACTIONS AND
BILATERAL DEALS. THE FRENCH DELEGATION REMINDED THE
CONFERENCE THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAD ALREADY
CONCLUDED SUCH DEALS AND THAT THE INCREASING AMOUNT
OF PARTICIPATION OIL MADE THESE DEALS NATURAL. THE
FRENCH DELEGATION WAS ALSO ABLE, WITH THE SUPPORT OF
CANADA AND THE NETHERLANDS, TO OBTAIN INCLUSION OF A
PARAGRAPH WELCOMING INITIATIVES IN THE UN. IT ALSO
SUCCEEDED IN INSERTING INTO THE COMMUNIQUE A PARAGRAPH
ON MAINTAINING AND ENLARGING THE FLOW OF DEVELOPMENT
AID, A PROVISION FOR WHICH THE U.S. DELEGATION SHOWED
LITTLE ENTHUSIASM.

5. THERE WILL BE A TENDENCY IN THE PRESS TO OVER-
DRAMATIZE THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE OTHERS
AT THE CONFERENCE, THE TELEGRAM CONTINUED. WE THINK IT
WOULD BE WRONG TO EXAGGERATE THE EFFECT OF THIS DIS-
AGREEMENT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE
OR THE EC. HOWEVER, THE FACT CANNOT BE IGNORED THAT OUR
PARTNERS SAW THINGS IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT FROM US. THEY
BELIEVED IT WAS FOOLISH TO BALK AT THE CREATION OF A
COORDINATING GROUP IF THIS WOULD PLEASE THE UNITED
STATES. HOWEVER, TO OBTAIN THIS RESULT OUR PARTNERS
ACCEPTED WITH DISCONCERTING EASE AN OBJECTIVE WHICH WAS
CONTRARY TO THE EC MANDATE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PARIS 04181 01 OF 02 160649Z

6. AFTER READING THIS TELEGRAM, BRUNET SPECULATED
BRFLY ON WHAT LAY AHEAD. HE NOTED THAT BOTH SECRETARY
KISSINGER AND JOBERT HAD WISELY SOUGHT TO AVOID
DRAMATIZING THE SPLIT BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE OTHER
TWELVE. NONETHELESS, HE THOUGHT THAT THIS EPISODE WOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 04181 02 OF 02 160648Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-11 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /213 W

----- 063851

R 151953Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6908

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PARIS 4181

LEAVE SERIOUS SCARS. THIS WAS THE FIRST PUBLIC
CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TH U.S. AND FRANCE SINCE THE
FOUNDING OF THE EC. THE U.S. HAD BEEN VERY CRITICAL
OFFRENCH ACTION IN VETOING UK ENTRY IN 1963 BUT THAT,
UNLIKE THE PRESENT ISSUE, WAS NOT A MATTER IN WHICH THE
U.S. WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED. BRUNET THOUGHT THAT THE
EFFECTS OF THIS FALLING-OUT WOULD BE FELT FOR SEVERAL
MONTHS. BY THAT TIME, HOWEVER, IT WOULD HAVE BECOME
APPARENT THAT THE COORDINATING GROUP COULD NOT ACHIEVE
VERY MUCH AND THEN THENGs WOULD BEGIN TO SETTLE DOWN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 04181 02 OF 02 160648Z

AGAIN. INDEED, HE SAID, HE THOUGHT ALL THE COORDINATING
GROUP WOOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH WOULD BE TO REMAND
ACTION ON THE ENERGY PROBLEM TO THE OECD AND OTHER

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. THIS COULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY THE CONFERENCE ITSELF IN TWO DAYS AND THIS IS WHAT THE FRENCH HAD HOPED WOULD HAPPEN. NOW IT WAS LIKELY TO TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS.

7. BRUNET SAID THAT FRANCE DID NOT INTEND TO SULK OR BE BLOODY-MINDED. WHEN EVERYBODY FINALLY GOT DOWN TO BRASS TACKS ON SUCH ENERGY PROBLEMS AS CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL SOURCES, R&D PROGRAMS AND THE LIKE, THEY WOULD FIND THAT FRANCE WAS FULLY PREPARED TO COOPERATE. HE SAID THE FRENCH WERE INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT THEY WERE NOT BIG OR CLEAVER ENOUGH TO SOLVE THEIR ENERGY PROBLEM ALL BY THEMSELVES. THEY HAD BEEN MAKING A LOT OF TRIPS THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST BUT THE PURPOSE OF THESE TRIPS WAS NOT TO BUY OIL, WHICH IN ANY CASE WAS NOT IN SHORT SUPPLY, BUT RATHER TO SELL GOODS IN ORDER TO HELP PAY FOR THE OIL.. ECON/COM MIN OBSERVED THAT THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES' NEEDS FOR IMPORTS WAS NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN A FRACTION OF FRANCE'S OIL BILL, EVEN IF THEY IMPORTED FROM NO ONE BUT FRANCE. BRUNET ACCEPTED THIS POINT BUT SAID THAT ANYTHING THAT COULD BE DONE TO HELP PAY THE OIL IMPORT BILL WAS WORTH DOING.

8. ECON/COM MIN ASKED WHETHER THE GOF COULD LOOK AHEAD FAR ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE OF CONSUMER AND PRODUCER COUNTRIES REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 16 OF THE COMMUNIQUE. BRUNET REPLIED THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE SUCH A DECISION AT THE PRESENT TIME. MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON HOW THE PRODUCER COUNTRIES REACTED TO THE PROGRAM AGREED ON AT WASHINGTON.

9. COMMENT: RE BRUNET'S LAST REMARK, THE GOF PRESUMABLY ALSO WANTS TO SEE WHAT COMES OF ITS HOPES OF A EUROPEAN-ARAB CONFERENCE BEFORE COMMITTING ITSELF TO A BROADER CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH BRUNET WAS VAGUE ABOUT HOW AND ON WHAT TERMS THE GOF WAS PREPARED TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 04181 02 OF 02 160648Z

COOPERATE WITH OTHER CONSUMER COUNTRIES, WE BELIEVE HIS INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE REFLECTS HIS ASSUMPTION THE COORDINATING GROUP WILL IN THE END BE FORCED TO TURN THE ENERGY PROBLEM BACK TO OECD WHERE FRANCE WOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE WITHOUT RESERVATION. THIS IS BORNE OUT BY HIS REMARK THAT, WHILE THE GOF HAS NEVER HAD A VERY HIGH REGARD FOR THE OECD, IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO INVEST SOME CAPITAL IN IT IF IT SHOULD BE DECIDED TO MAKE IT THE PRINCIPAL FORUM FOR ACTION ON THE ENERGY PROBLEM. SINCE THE GOF HAS ALWAYS BEEN READY TO

DISCUSS ENERGY IN THE OECD, BRUNET'S REMARKS CAN SCARCELY
BE REGARDED AS A SOFTENING OF THE NEGATIVE
POSITION ADHERED TO BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION IN
WASHINGTON.IRWIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS04181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740229/aaaabaxq.tel
Line Count: 281
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIEWS OF FRENCH OFFICIAL ON WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, FR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005